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U. S. Department of Agriculture

FARM NEWS DIGEST

Saturday, September 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: This is Station _____, broadcasting THE FARM NEWS DIGEST, prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture. Uncle Sam's radio newspaper for farmers contains a number of interesting items this week. There's the sugar cane expedition to the East Indies, for one thing, and the sheep and wool situation for another.

---ooOoo---

Good news and a caution for sheepmen are contained in the latest sheep and wool outlook report recently issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture. The report says that "increase in marketings and slaughter of lambs, a better consumer demand for lamb, and a continued good world demand for wool are indicated for the next nine months". The good news comes in that part of the report dealing with the outlook for the coming nine months.

The caution is contained in that part of the report which has to do with the long-time outlook. Say Uncle Sam's markets men: "Sheep production in the United States has been rapidly expanding.... considerable caution may well be exercised in regard to further expansion".

Here are a few important statements from the report which are of interest to sheepmen and general farmers: The lamb crop of 1928, as indicated by the June lamb survey, was 8 per cent larger than in 1927. Practically all of the increase was in the western lamb States.... The keen demand for ewe lambs, as shown by the high reported prices current in the West, indicates that few ewe lambs of the desirable type for range-breeding flocks will be shipped for slaughter this fall.... An increase of around 800 thousand head of sheep and lambs, both native and western, in shipments, either to market or direct to feed lots, from August to November, seems likely... In view of the favorable prospects for an increase in production of feed grains this year over last, and the scarcity and higher prices of feeding cattle, a good demand for feeding lambs is anticipated for this fall.

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It's a long jump from the sheep range to New Guinea, a large island of the East Indies, but the activities of the United States Department of Agriculture reach out into both places. "Head hunter natives of the interior of New Guinea were over-awed last July when a hydroplane swooped out of the sky, came to rest, and allowed white men to alight. Rarely, if ever, have white men visited that region, and never before did they arrive by air, so far as known", a Department announcement says.

No--- these men were not trying a 'round-the-world flight nor a Washington-to-East Indies flight. The white men who got out of the plane in the heart of head-hunting country were members of the scientific expedition sent out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to search for varieties of sugar cane which might prove immune or highly resistant to the diseases of sugar cane which in recent years threatened the abandonment of sugar cane culture in the United States.

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Agriculture expedition has established friendly relations with the pigmies living on the Alice River and also with the---head-hunters. The party reports the discovery of several promising varieties of sugar cane and will return to the United States in the near future.

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Coming back home again, here is an interesting announcement that "the 10 million tons of agricultural wastes--- cornstalks, corncobs, grain straws, cottonseed and peanut hulls, and other substances--- produced yearly on the farms of the United States, formed the topic for the serious consideration of chemists at the Evanston, Illinois, meeting of the Institute of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society." Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, presided over the conference on "researches of immediate urgency in the utilization of agricultural products."

Dr. Knight says that there is good reason to believe that farm products which are now just waste, may someday be made use of in such a way that they will bring profits to the farmers who produce them along with the useful crops of which they are a part.

* * * * *

Poultrymen will be interested to hear that the 1928 total of the number of chickens being raised on farms in the United States apparently is about 10 per cent less than the 1927 total. That news comes out of reports, covering some 22 thousand flocks, which the Department of Agriculture has received from all States in the Union. The returns showed the number of chicks and young chickens of this year's hatch in these 22 thousand farm flocks on July 1st to be 9 per cent less than on July 1st, 1927.

"The reduction is not unexpected in view of the somewhat unfavorable relation between the prices of poultry products and the cost of the poultry ration that existed during most of 1927 and the first half of 1928," the Department says.

* * * * *

The warfare against tuberculosis of cattle goes on. A new record in the campaign against bovine tuberculosis was established in June, when more cattle were tested than in any month since the work was started in 1917, the Department's tuberculosis eradication division announced recently. It looks like the campaign will be fought out on this line for the rest of the summer.

During last June, the tuberculin test was applied to 1,073,988 cattle in 94,315 herds and 20,080 tuberculous animals were removed. In some States, the degree of tuberculous infection was found to be less than 1 per cent, while in others a higher degree was found. The average for the entire United States in June was estimated to be about 2 per cent infected.

* * * * * *

The United States Civil Service Commission announces examinations for the following positions in the Service:

Junior Entomologist, Laboratory Aide in Animal Husbandry, Junior Animal Husbandry Aide, Junior Laboratory Aide in Animal Husbandry, Junior Poultry Aide, Senior Horticulturist, Assistant Horticulturist, Associate Agricultural Engineer, and Assistant Agricultural Engineer, at beginning salaries ranging from $1,440 to $4,600 annually, depending on the position.

Full information concerning any of these examinations will be furnished applicants who write to the United States Civil Service, Washington, D. C.

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Cotton root rot, a plant disease of cotton, is becoming increasingly serious in certain areas of the cotton-growing States of the Southwest and the U. S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the University of Texas in fighting the disease. Researches are to be undertaken looking to the control of this disease and a Government expert has been assigned to field duty at Austin, Texas, where he will take charge of a field laboratory in which cotton root rot will be studied.

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The wheat harvesting season was unusually wet this year, Department of Agriculture specialists say, and unusual care in choosing seed wheat will be necessary in many areas. Farmers are cautioned to use for seed only wheat that is known not to have gone out of condition. Wheat that is musty, sour heating, or hot will not grow. Even slight heating in the bin will injure germination of seed wheat. If farmers have any doubt about the quality of their seed wheat, they sould make a germination test, says the Department.

* * * * * *

During the late summer, pastures in most sections are short because of dry weather and because they are grazed too closely. If there is any grass at all, it is not succulent and is unpalatable. For this reason, dairy cows will not eat enough of it for high milk production.

Experienced dairymen know that if the production of their cows has decreased during the hot, dry weather because of insufficient feed, it is hard to bring the milk production back to normal during that milking period.

The summer silo, according to the Department of Agriculture, is probably the best means of supplying succulent feeds and of supplementing short, dried-up pastures.

In addition to good pasture, high-producing cows need to be fed grain to supply the required nutrients. Cows producing more than 20 pounds of milk daily should be given 1 pound of grain to each 4 to 6 pounds of milk produced. The grain fed may be a mixture of corn, oats, wheat bran, or barley and should always be ground.

Interested farmers will find more information on summer silos and rations for dairy cows in the different farmers bulletins issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Write for the bulletins on feeding dairy cows. They are free.

---ooOoo---

ANNOUNCEMENT: This concludes today's FARM NEWS DIGEST, prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for broadcast by Station _____. Another DIGEST will be put on the air next Saturday at this hour.

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FARM NEWS DIGEST.

Saturday, September 8, 1928.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: This is Station _____, broadcasting Uncle Sam's FARM NEWS DIGEST for this week. The news comes direct from the United States Department of Agriculture. Something to interest all classes of farmers --- something for farmers' wives-

---ooOoo---

Mixed news, good and not so good, comes in this month's summary of the national agricultural situation issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Some of the highlights of the report are as follows:

The purchasing power of farm products is close to the highest point reached since 1920.

The livestock industry is showing continued financial improvement, but markets for some of the major crops are lower.

Beef cattle producers, after all their hard times, are once again in a strong position. Hogs are apparently on the upswing of a price cycle. The dairy industry is in relatively good shape, with market milk prices at about the highest level since 1920--- with feed prices easing off--- and with cows at a very high value. Even the sheep industry is doing well, in spite of its expansion. The widespread tendency among farmers to raise more young stock is evidence of the relative prosperity of the animal industries.

There has been a very heavy movement of wheat to market, though more recently the lower wheat prices have disposed farmers to hold their wheat where they are able. Conditions have not been very encouraging in the wheat sections during the past month, the decline in prices having affected the incomes of thousands of growers. The declining market for wheat has been shared also by corn and potatoes. In the case of corn, the lowered price to the grower of cash corn is offset, in part, by the gain to the livestock feeder. Potatoes, however, are sold directly out of the agricultural community and a price of 25 or 30 cents a bushel represents serious hardship to some of the large potato-growing sections.

* * * *

The Department of Agriculture's Mid-Summer Cattle Outlook, just issued, indicates that the present favorable cattle situation will continue during the next 12 months.

"Marketings this fall doubtless will be somewhat smaller than a year earlier," the report says, "but the number of cattle coming to market during the first half of 1929 probably will about equal marketings during the first half of this year. The present active demand for beef, and consequently for

slaughter cattle, is expected to continue. Demand for stocker and feeder cattle this fall is expected to exceed that of a year ago. No material change in the present general cattle price level is anticipated, although seasonal declines probably will occur both this fall and next spring."

That news will please cattlemen everywhere.

* * * *

Farmers, tanners, and hide dealers are losing about 20 million dollars a year in waste that could be avoided. This huge loss comes as a result of careless or wasteful methods of curing hides and skinning animals. Practically all of this loss could be prevented.

Some time ago, representatives of the hide dealers, tanners, butchers, cattlemen, dairymen, and farmers met with officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce and drew up a program of work for the production of better hides and skins. The conference, set up a number of working committees which now are at work on means of eliminating hide and skin losses and on ways to improve practices in the hide and skin business. At present, two experienced hide men are at work in the field.

Farmers interested may get further information on the care and handling of hides and skins by writing the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

* * * *

Other States are being heard from in the dairy industry. That's what figures on the size and trend of the industry show. Says the Department of Agriculture: "States relatively unimportant in the field of dairy product manufacturing increased their importance in 1927 as compared with the previous year. The important dairy States of Minnesota and Wisconsin did not increase their production in 1927. The total amount of creamery butter made in the year was about one billion, five hundred million pounds, an increase of about 45 million pounds over 1926. Iowa achieved a substantial increase. In general, increases are reported in the less important butter-producing States, particularly in the South, the Northwest, and the far West, in which sections it has been generally known the dairy business has been increasing rapidly in recent years."

* * * *

It looks as if there's going to be a longer open season on peach ice cream. Folks who like this delicious food will be glad to hear that three members of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have been experimenting for three years on the preservation of peaches for ice cream making and that they now report the results of their work in Technical Bulletin 84-T, called Preservation of Peaches for Use in the Manufacture of Ice Cream.

The experimental work was done in the heart of the Georgia peach belt. Tests of the product were made in Washington. Two methods of preservation proved satisfactory and enabled the experimenters to make ice cream of a distinctive peach flavor and of good consistency from fruit gathered as much as a year previously. It will now be possible to get good peach ice cream out of the peach season, just as you can get good strawberry ice cream when the plants are covered with snow.

* * * *

Where do grapes rank in value among the fruit and vegetable crops?

Well, in 1927, grapes ranked fifth, being exceeded in value only by potatoes, apples, oranges, and sweet potatoes. California is by long odds the chief grape producing area as either the northern or central producing region of California produces more grapes each year than all of the other 47 States combined. The California grape crop amounted to about 2,264,000 tons in 1927. The time of shipment ranges from mid-June in the Imperial Valley to November in northern California, although some of the late varieties are not shipped until as late as December or January.

* * * *

'Way back in the 1850's, a few importations of English sparrows were made on the Atlantic Coast of this country. Probably few people anticipated at that time that this bird immigrant would thrive and spread itself over the whole continent, as it has done. Bird lovers have spent thousands of dollars trying to give certain other birds a start in the United States, but without success. But money is spent to get rid of the English sparrow.

The English sparrow increased in numbers and in range for perhaps 30 to 40 years, when it reached a peak of abundance and was considered a serious pest, according to the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. But in recent years, says the Survey, these birds have declined in numbers, both in cities and rural districts and nature seems to be setting a balance in regard to them.

* * * *

Among the new publications just published by the Department of Agriculture, and on hand for distribution to interested farmers and others, are these three---

For ranchers and stockmen in the Southwest: Technical Bulletin 68-T--- called RANCH ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN THE SOUTHWEST. This bulletin gives information on the organization and management of range-cattle, sheep, and goat ranches in the southwestern range region of the United States. It will be sent free on request to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ask for the bulletin by number--- Technical Bulletin 68-T.

For all farmers: Farmers' Bulletin 1564-F--- called FARM BUDGETING. In this bulletin, the author has tried to explain to farmers the advantages of doing for their farms just what has now become common practice in many other lines of business. Forms are presented to make the job easy. Farmers' Bulletin 1564-F will be sent free on application to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

For California grape growers: Circular 44-C--- called MARKETING CALIFORNIA GRAPES. This bulletin contains an unusually complete statistical record of the distribution of the 1927 crop of California grapes marketed fresh. It gives prices received on auctions and other data showing the trend and status of the industry. Circular 44-C will be sent free on request to the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington.

* * * *

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an unassembled examination for the position of Assistant Physiologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The salary for this position ranges from $2600 to $3100 a year. Applications for the examination must be on file with the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., not later than September 26, 1928.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: This concludes today's FARM NEWS DIGEST, prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for broadcast by Station _____. Another next Saturday.

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FARM NEWS DIGEST. Saturday, September 15.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: More timely news for the farmer and his wife in today's FARM NEWS DIGEST which Uncle Sam releases through Station _____ every Saturday. The news comes from the United States Department of Agriculture and deals with scientific work for improved farming. A variety of information features today's news.

--ooOoo--

Dr. A.F. Woods who is the director of scientific work in the United States Department of Agriculture has been looking into the national dairy situation and he thinks things look pretty good, according to a statement from him which appeared recently in the Department's Official Record. However, Dr. Woods doesn't think that the situation is so good that dairymen can afford to expand their business to the point of over-production of dairy products. "The producers of dairy products in the United States are producing enough of those products to meet the Nation's consuming demands for about 363 days in the year," Dr. Woods says,"and all we need to import is enough for the other two days. But from these facts, it is clear that too great a stimulation of production would result in over-production."

A new day has dawned for the dairyman, this expert thinks. And if the dairyman will look ahead and plan and cooperate with his neighbors and use the knowledge that is available to him, he may look forward to a period of prosperity and stability in the dairy industry. He warns the dairyman against over-production of dairy products, but on the other hand he says that educational work to make the American public more conscious of the high food value of dairy products would help to open up increased markets for dairy products produced by American farmers and commercial dairymen.

* * * *

In case some one came up to you in the street and asked how many wild ducks, geese, swans, and coots there are in this country, could you tell him? Please don't smile. The answer is not impossible and right now the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture is taking a wild fowl census. In fact this census was begun about one year ago and it has been persistently followed up since then. The Biological Survey is after information on the fluctuations in abundance of waterfowl and all hunters, as well as the general public, will doubtless be interested in how the census comes out.

The work already accomplished seems to indicate that the original idea of the census was conservative, not too enthusiastic, and the Biological Survey thinks that this waterfowl census will produce information that will be of very great value in the formulation of a sound policy for the conservation of the country's waterfowl resources. More than 3,000 voluntary cooperators of the Biological Survey are helping with the work. Censuses are taken on certain days each month at important waterfowl concentration points in every State in the Union, in all the Provinces of Canada, in parts of Mexico, and in Alaska and Porto Rico. Dependable information has already been gathered and more is to come.

* * * *

Bees have clean habits and their product, honey, is naturally a clean food. Furthermore, the high sugar content of honey makes it very hard for contaminating organisms harmful to man to multiply in it. This is all good news to the honey buyer, but the Department of Agriculture now comes out with more good news in a statement saying that with the widespread use of United States grades for honey, buyers can now feel that the honey they buy is strictly clean and put up under sanitary methods. Modern apiaries are much more efficient and sanitary than those of grandfather's day. Those who buy honey need not worry about the cleanliness of the product. United States honey grades and the pure food act now assure purchasers that the product is just what it's represented to be.

* * * *

Toads working on night shifts are doing some good work for the farmer, according to the Department of Agriculture's Biological Survey, and it would not be a bad idea for the farmer to study the habits of toads and protect them.

Mealtime with toads often begins before sunset and continues throughout a greater part of the night. Although toads, like birds, eat some beneficial insects, they more than make up for it by feeding on such harmful pests as termites beetle larvae with injurious or potentially injurious habits, plant-sucking bugs, voracious caterpillars, and other insect enemies. Toads don't mind eating some weevils, leaf chafers, white grubs, and May beetles now and then during the night meal.

An active interest in the conservation of toads must be taken if these useful animals are to escape extermination by the draining of their breeding places, by the burning over of fields and woods, and by other perils of their present-day environment.

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A good many farmers know the value of the so-called green manure crops and know how such crops improve the soil. But the Department of Agriculture adds that not all farmers know how to make such crops grow. Under some conditions it becomes necessary to fertilize a fertilizing crop. The object in growing a green-manure crop is to produce, especially on poor soil, as much

material as possible to turn under. On very poor soils it often happens that even the strongest feeders can make but poor growth and consequently the benefit from the crop is reduced. Farmers who want to make the best use of their land and are using green-manure crops for that purpose, should study the needs of the green-manure, as well as the other crops, and then fertilize accordingly, says the Department.

* * * *

Uncle Sam's Calendar of Livestock Parasites, issued recently by the Department of Agriculture, has this to say about September work in livestock parasite control---

"Now is the time to dip your livestock for lice, sheep ticks, true ticks, and mange. Later, it will be too cold to do more than apply relief measures. Do it now while the weather is still warm and save yourself trouble later, as these pests are more troublesome in cold weather. Consult Farmers' Bulletins numbers 1330-F, (sheep parasites)--- 1493-F, (lice, mange, and ticks of horses)--- 1085-F, (hog lice and hog mange)--- 1017-F, (cattle scab)--- 980,F (ear ticks) --- 909-F, (cattle lice)--- 798-F, (sheep ticks)--- and 713-F, (sheep scab). Clean up lice on poultry. See Farmers' Bulletins numbers 1337-F and 801-F for full instructions."

* * * *

Representatives of 16 of the leading cooperative cotton-marketing associations throughout the South and Southwest, representing about 118 thousand cotton growers, met recently at Memphis, Tennessee, with men from the United States Department of Agriculture in a two-day conference in connection with developing the department's program of research, service, and educational work in the cooperative marketing of cotton. The aim of the conference was to afford an opportunity for the leaders in the cooperative movement to review in detail the progress of cooperative cotton marketing to date and consider further objectives and policies--- and, to assist the department in expanding and strengthening its program of research, service, and educational work relative to cooperative marketing of cotton.

* * * *

There has been an unusually large number of food-poisoning outbreaks throughout the United States during the last few months and the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture has given this situation careful attention. A specialist in the Administration mentions some important precautionary measures to be taken to prevent such outbreaks.

These measures include the thorough heating of food products--- protection against contamination by dust, flies or other insects, rats or mice--- protection against contamination by human carriers of disease-producing bacteria--- complete cleanliness of all utensils--- and careful refrigeration of food between

the time of preparation and the time the food is used.

"Food that is to be eaten raw should be fresh, clean, free from abnormal odors, rotting, and from mold, says this specialist--- and it should be washed in clean water fit for drinking purposes. Cooked foods should be heated to the boiling point and kept free from contamination. Cooked food should be put in a refrigerator if it is to be kept more than a few hours."

* * * *

Grain farmers will be interested in a new bulletin just off the Government presses. It is Farmers' Bulletin 1556-F, called IRRIGATION OF SMALL GRAIN, and deals primarily with the irrigation of wheat, oats and barley on new land. A copy of Farmers' Bulletin 1556-F will be sent free on request.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: That concludes today's FARM NEWS DIGEST, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for release by Station_____. Another DIGEST will be broadcast next Saturday. Send requests for bulletins to this Station or direct to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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FARM NEWS DIGEST Saturday, September 22, 1928.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station presents a digest of farm news prepared for radio listeners by the United States Department of Agriculture. In this farm news digest, you will find items of interest and value ---- perhaps some of direct and immediate value to you on your own farm.

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In the past few years, the people of this country have been using more of the products of the dairy farm. There has been considerable increase. Folks have begun to appreciate the value of milk in the diet. However, the use of dairy products in many sections is still far below what it should be. There is yet room for a considerable increase. To increase the demand, quality must be given more consideration by dairy farmers. Dairy products are perishable. The demand will depend upon the quality, and the farmer is responsible for the quality of dairy products as they come from the farm. Another important factor which needs attention in the dairy industry today is efficiency in production. Dairy farmers must cull out the low producing cows from their herds, if they expect to insure their own prosperity. They should build for greater production by keeping records of the production of each cow, by using better bulls, and by following the best methods in feeding, breeding, and management. Greater efficiency of production, production of the highest quality dairy products, and further increase in the consumption of dairy products are the big needs of the dairy business at this time, according to the new chief of the Bureau of Dairy Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture.

A few years ago, it was not unusual to find from two to ten hogs dead in a car load shipment of hogs in hot weather. Nowdays, the inspectors tell us, there are fewer hogs killed or crippled in transit. Recently, during a sizzling hot spell, a check of an entire trainload of hogs at one of the big terminal markets showed no dead hogs and only two cripples. Another big trainload showed only two dead hogs and four cripples. The reason is that nowdays shippers of livestock pay more attention to the condition of their stock before shipment. Then too, they pay more attention to the proper preparation of the cars for loading and to the proper loading of the cars.

------- Just a word of caution to livestock and other farmers who have scales on their farms: Keep your scales clean. Dirty scales may lose you money. A little dirt in the notches of the scale beam, may cause an appreciable

error in the weight. In a recent test, dust in one of the notches of a scale beam made it twelve pounds slow. That meant a loss to the seller of 12 pounds for every draft weighed over the scale in which that notch was used.

Improved beef and dairy cattle are being rapidly introduced into southern communities which have recently rid themselves of cattle ticks. In some localities, where improved breeding stock was introduced promptly after ticks were eradicated, beef production and dairying are already well established. In a part of eastern Georgia, where purebred bulls were introduced a few years ago, livestock owners now have begun to furnish feeder steers in carload lots. That shows how it pays to get rid of cattle ticks. Where purebred livestock have been introduced in tick-infested sections, serious losses of animals from tick fever have occurred. It is exceedingly dangerous to introduce purebred livestock into regions even tick infested to a slight degree.

The winning fight against cattle ticks in the South is good news, but the fight against some of our insect pests is not so encouraging. For instance, two damaging insects, the gipsy moth and the brown-tail moth, which attacks trees and plants, exist in parts of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It has now been found necessary to change the quarantine regulations to include fifty towns of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut in the territory designated as "generally infested." Heretofore these fifty towns were designated as "lightly infested." More than 1500 square miles of territory in three States will come under more strict quarantine October 1, as a result of the spread of these insects.

September 24, there will be a hearing to consider extending the Japanese beetle quarantine to the States of Massachusetts and Virginia. Japanese beetle grubs attack lawns and some fifty different kinds of flowers and vegetables. For some time parts of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia, have been under quarantine regualtions on account of the Japanese beetles. Recently, it was discovered that these pests had also spread into parts of Virginia and Massachusetts.

But there's one good thing; not all insects are bad insects. Bees are among the good insects. All of them are not as good as they should be, however. Fact is, one of the chief problems to be taken up by the new Southern States Bee Culture Laboratory just established by the United States Department of Agriculture at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will be the scientific breeding of bees. The bee experts are considering the advisability of having United States standards for package bees and queen bees. Uncle Sam's queen bees will have to have real queenly qualities. Honey production in the Southern States will also be given careful attention by the new Laboratory.

The Department of Agriculture has forecast a bigger grape crop this year than last. The crop will probably be bigger in California and the combined crop in all States outside California is expected to be more than fifty per cent bigger than last year. Anyway, it will require careful grading and packing of grapes and wide distribution to prevent the season from being unprofitable to growers and shippers. This season grape growers will have more competition from other fruits than they did last year. There are heavy crops of peaches, pears , and apples this year compared to last year. It is up to grape growers to grade, pack, and market their product carefully.

As some of you know, who have collected pine or fir cones for the sale of seed to nurseries, or for planting in your farm nursery, it is no easy job to pick cones. One or two bushels of cones is ordinarily a good day's collection from standing trees. However, there is a much easier way than picking them off the trees. Squirrels store cones around old rotten logs, among the roots of trees, along streams, and similar places. From squirrel stores you can often get several times as many as you can collect from the trees. And, another thing, by watching the squirrels you can find out when to start gathering. Squirrels like their seed ripe. It is safe to start collecting as soon as they do.

Moles live mostly on insects, grubs, and earthworms. They don't eat any considerable quantity of roots, bulbs, and seeds of plants. However, their tunnels do serve as passageways for mice and other small animals which do eat plant parts.

Speaking of mice, thousands of valuable orchard trees, young and old, are killed by field mice throughout the United States every year. In many places, the control of field mice has to be carried on continuously. At times, they cause ruinous losses of crops and trees. Millions of dollars worth of damage to pasture, forage, grain, and other crops, flowering plants, and shrubbery is caused by harboring these pests. Much of this damage could be avoided by following the control measures laid down in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1397, on "Mouse Control in Field and Orchard."

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ANNOUNCEMENT: That bulletin on "Mouse Control in Field and Orchard" is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1397. You can get this bulletin either through this Station or by writing direct to the United States Department of Agriculture.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FARM NEWS DIGEST Saturday, Sept. 29,1928

TO STATION MANAGERS: Today's Farm News Digest concludes the special summer service of 1928. This program will be replaced with the Farm Science Snapshots for those stations assigned this program, starting October 6.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station has been presenting the Farm News Digest prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture. We will now have another of these reviews, the final one of the 1928 summer period.

FOR STATIONS USING THE FARM SCIENCE SNAPSHOTS

Next week at this time we start another weekly summary of farm news from the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Science Snapshots.

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For the first time in history, arrangements have been made for taking an agricultural census of all countries in the world at the same time. This census will cover the year beginning next July the first, 1929. It will show the number and size of farms throughout practically the entire world. It will record the acreage and production of important crops in all the nations of the earth. It will also set down the exact number of each kind of livestock, together with the age and sex of all the world's farm animals. Of the 200 countries already listed to take part in this census, only 60 have ever taken an agricultural census. Of those 60 only 40 have taken a census since 1900. And out of those 40 only three or four have ever happened to take their censuses in the same year.

At Memphis, Tennessee, October 13 to 20, there will be a National Cotton Show. The United States Department of Agriculture will have a big exhibit there. That exhibit will show the uses of cotton fiber and seed. Literally hundreds of things manufactured from cotton will be shown. Among other things there will be a model automobile. Each automobile, on the average, makes use of 35 pounds of cotton. There is cotton in the tires, in the seat cushions and covers, and in automobile tops and other parts.

Dairy farmers in this country are gradually becoming richer. That's what Dr. A. F. Woods, director of the Department's scientific work, says. They are not getting too rich. Maybe they are not getting rich enough. But they are gradually getting richer; even though modern book-keeping shows many of them running at a paper loss. The pay may be small, but everybody on the dairy

farm works the year round. That tells in the long run. The pay gradually accumulates. Then, too, fertility largely goes back to the land through manure. Dairy farmers are learning how to cut down costs of production and losses and so increase their margin of net profit.

The recent floods in the South Atlantic States caused considerable damage to some farms. But you might think under the light rainfall of the western dry regions that rain wash doesn't cut much figure in dry country---- You might think that; if it wasn't for the actual facts. Much of the soil is so loose, it washes away easily. In the cattle country of the southwestern dry region, Department experts studied the washing of the soil last year. They found many places where the richest soil of the region had been completely washed out of valleys that formerly furnished first-class grazing. In one place near Fort Davis, Texas, there were about 1,000 acres of once fine grassland which had been so riddled by gullies that the ground was almost bare of vegetation. Those gullies had their beginning in a prairie dog town. In another locality, a gully 30 feet deep, 200 feet wide, and nearly a mile long had grown from the wheel-tracks of a former main highway. There is hardly any part of the country which doesn't need to give attention to this matter of soil washing.

One of the ways being urged to control Mississippi river floods is by reforestation. A good vigorous forest cover has a beneficial effect on stream flow and silting. Big investments in protecting and restoring our forests are justified. By keeping forest soils in place instead of letting them waste away to clog river channels, we also make those soils fully and perpetually productive.

In the Coronado National Forest in Arizona, the Forest Service has set aside a tract of about 4,500 acres which will not be logged or grazed, but will be kept in its natural condition. Nothing will be done to improve it. Nature will be allowed to grow the forest, to tear it down or build it up as she pleases. But the foresters will just look on. They will try to learn how nature works, so that they may work with nature instead of against her in improving forests in other places.

In the mountains of southeastern West Virginia, there is also an interesting study being made. The scientists are making a survey to determine how the land in that region can best be used. The bulk of the timber has been cut off. What's left won't last long. Farming no longer pays on much of the land, and the burden of carrying the cutover land is getting hard on owners. The survey is to determine whether it is practical to use the various types of land for forestry.

And speaking of trees, the Department is now demonstrating how longleaf and slash pines may be managed to produce both turpentine and marketable timber. By low, even clipping with a small hack, making a face only one-half inch deep, as high as three times as much gum can be obtained as with the old, heavier facings. At the same time, the trees are kept growing and in good health.

Cuttings of over 160 varieties of sugar cane, collected by plant hunters of the Department in the wilds of Papua and New Guinea, are being shipped to the United States in refrigerated rooms of steamers. When they reach San Francisco, they will be sent by express to Washington for growth under observation in the department's sugar-cane detention greenhouse at Arlington Farm. From some of these plants may be developed better varieties of sugar cane for growers in this country. The expedition which collected these plants covered every district of Papua and New Guinea; traveling 10,000 miles by seaplane, 700 miles by canoe, and 400 miles on foot. As a precaution against possible loss or death of cuttings during shipment, duplicate cuttings are being planted by the explorers at Sydney, Australia.

A number of recent shipments of American honey to European countries have been classed as overheated. The German law prohibits labeling overheated honey as pure honey. If honey is not carefully heated, when it is necessary to prepare it for market which requires liquid honey, both the flavor and color of the honey may be injured by overheating. Packers for foreign markets are warned not to heat honey to more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

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The United States Civil Service Commission has announced examinations for Assiciate Cotton Technologist at $3,200 to $3,700 a year and Assistant Cotton Technologist at $2,600 to $3,100 a year. Applications for these positions in the Department of Agriculture must be on file with the U. S. Civil Service Commission at Washington, D.C. not later than October 10, 1928. Full information concerning these positions can be obtained from the commission.

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